

In the claims:

1. – 25. (canceled)

26. (New) An installation for the treatment of ballast water, said installation comprising a treatment component having an internal passage through which ballast water may flow and electrodes connected to an electric current source, characterised in that said treatment component comprises a bundle of pipes of electrically insulating material allowing for ballast water flow therethrough in parallel, and in that each said pipe is provided with said electrodes whereby ballast water flowing therethrough may be subjected to an electric current thereby to destroy live organisms therein.

27. (New) An installation as claimed in claim 26 wherein said component is dismountable.

28. (New) An installation as claimed in claim 26 wherein said bundle of pipes is disposed within a coat.

29. (New) An installation as claimed in claim 28 wherein said coat may be opened and closed.

30. (New) An installation as claimed in claim 29 wherein electric current to said electrodes from said source is interrupted when said coat is open.

31. (New) An installation as claimed in claim 30 wherein said coat comprises coat parts movable about a hinge between open and closed positions.

32. (New) An installation as claimed in claim 31 further comprising an electrical plug and socket mounted on said coat part and said bundle of pipes and wherein movement of a said coat part to an open position causes the electrical connection between said plug and socket to be broken.

33. (New) An installation as claimed in claim 26 wherein said source is an alternating current source.
34. (New) An installation as claimed in claim 33 wherein said source is a one-phase, three-phase or zero point alternating current source.
35. (New) An installation as claimed in claim 34 wherein said source is a three-phase alternating current source.
36. (New) An installation is claimed in any one of claims 26 to 28 wherein in each pipe of said bundle of pipes the said electrodes are arranged in a triangular pattern in a plane crossing the ballast water flow direction.
37. (New) An installation as claimed in any one of claims 26 to 28 further comprising a pump for pumping ballast water through said component.
38. (New) An installation as claimed in any one of claims 26 to 28 wherein said source and electrodes are arranged to supply current to ballast water flowing through said bundle of pipes at a level of (25 to 40)/90 Amps per litre flowing through said component per second.
39. (New) An installation as claimed in claim 26 wherein said component further comprises inlet and outlet pipes and wherein ballast water may flow sequentially through said inlet pipe, said bundle of pipes, and said outlet pipe.
40. (New) An installation as claimed in claim 39 wherein the internal cross-sectional area of said inlet pipe is about the same as the combined internal cross-sectional areas of said pipes in said bundle.

41. (New) An installation as claimed in claim 39 wherein the internal cross-sectional area of said inlet pipe is less than the combined internal cross-sectional areas of said pipes in said bundle.

42. (New) A ballast water treatment unit for a ballast water treatment installation, said unit comprising an internal passage through which ballast water may flow and electrodes, characterised in that said unit is mountable in and dismountable from said installation, in that said unit comprises a bundle of pipes of electrically insulating material allowing for ballast water flow therethrough in parallel, and in that each said pipe is provided with said electrodes whereby ballast water flowing therethrough may be subjected to an electric current thereby to destroy live organisms therein.

43. (New) A unit as claimed in claim 42 further comprising ballast water inlet and outlet pipes, wherein the internal cross-sectional area of said inlet pipe is about the same as the combined internal cross-sectional areas of the pipes of said bundle of pipes.

44. (New) A unit as claimed in claim 42 further comprising ballast water inlet and outlet pipes, wherein the internal cross-sectional area of said inlet pipe is less than the combined internal cross-sectional areas of the pipes of said bundle of pipes.

45. (New) A unit as claimed in claim 42 wherein said bundle of pipes is disposed within a coat.

46. (New) A unit as claimed in claim 45 wherein said coat may be opened and closed.

47. (New) A unit as claimed in claim 46 wherein said coat comprises coat parts movable about a hinge between open and closed positions.

48. (New) A unit as claimed in claim 47 further comprising an electrical plug and socket mounted on said coat part and said bundle of pipes whereby movement of a said coat part to an open position causes the electrical connection between said plug and socket to be broken.

49. (New) A unit as claimed in any one of claims 42 to 44 wherein in each pipe of said bundle of pipes the said electrodes are arranged in a triangular pattern in a plane crossing the ballast water flow direction.

50. (New) A method of treatment of ballast water to destroy live organisms therein, said method comprising:

flowing ballast water through a treatment component having an internal passage through which ballast water may flow and electrodes connected to an electric current source; and

subjecting the ballast water to electrical current from said electrodes whereby to destroy said organisms;

characterised in that said component comprises a bundle of pipes of electrically insulating material allowing for ballast water flow therethrough in parallel, and in that each said pipe is provided with said electrodes whereby ballast water flowing therethrough may be subjected to an electric current thereby to destroy live organisms therein.

51. (New) A method as claimed in claim 50 wherein said component is dismountable.

52. (New) A method as claimed in claim 50 wherein said bundle of pipes is disposed within a coat.

53. (New) A method as claimed in claim 52 wherein said coat may be opened and closed.

54. (New) A method as claimed in claim 53 wherein electric current to said electrodes from said source is interrupted when said coat is open.

55. (New) A method as claimed in claim 54 wherein said coat comprises coat parts movable about a hinge between open and closed positions.

56. (New) A method as claimed in claim 55 wherein an electrical plug and socket is mounted on said coat part and said bundle of pipes and wherein movement of a said coat part to an open position causes the electrical connection between said plug and socket to be broken.

57. (New) A method as claimed in claim 50 wherein said source is an alternating current source.

58. (New) A method as claimed in claim 57 wherein said source is a one-phase, three-phase or zero point alternating current source.

59. (New) A method as claimed in claim 58 wherein said source is a three-phase alternating current source.

60. (New) A method as claimed in any one of claims 50 to 52 wherein in each pipe of said bundle of pipes the said electrodes are arranged in a triangular pattern in a plane crossing the ballast water flow direction.

61. (New) A method as claimed in any one of claims 50 to 52 wherein ballast water is pumped through said component.

62. (New) A method as claimed in any one of claims 50 to 52 wherein an electric current is applied to ballast water flowing through said bundle of pipes at a level of (25 to 40)/90 Amps per liter flowing through said component per second.